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EXAMINER

HANNE, SARA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/659,580	Applicant(s) FOGG, BRIAN J.	
	Examiner Sara M. Hanne	Art Unit 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-32, 34, 35 and 37-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-32, 34, 35 and 37-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment received on 8/22/05. Claims 1-8, 10-32, 34-35 and 37-43 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-8, 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not provide support for the newly amended limitation to Claim 1, specifically "enabling the user to position each associate icon independently within the user interface" beginning on line 7 of the claim.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 1-8, 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "independently", in line 7 of Claim 1, has

not been defined by the specification nor does the claim define the intent of the limitation. Each associate icon is independent of what?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 16-20, 23-29, 34-35, 37-40 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Megiddo, US Patent 6559863.

As in Claim 16, Megiddo teaches a method for visualizing interpersonal relationships comprising displaying a user icon representing a user on a user interface and displaying associate icons on the user interface, wherein the associate icons represent respective associates, radially about the user icon (Col. 2, lines 14 et seq.), wherein each of the associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associate (Col. 2, lines 10-14), automatically repositioning one of the associate icons radially relative to the user icon based on extent of contact between the user and the associate (Col. 7, lines 1 et seq.).

As in Claim 17, Megiddo teaches the distance between the user icon and the each associate icon represents an importance of the each relationship (Col. 2, lines 10-14).

As in Claim 18, Megiddo teaches each associate icon is capable of being repositioned by the user via an input device (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.).

As in Claim 19, 23-24, and 39, Megiddo teaches a voice communication tool to transmit a voice communication from the user to at least one of the associates (Col. 5, line 40 et seq.).

As in Claim 20, teaches selecting and associate icon includes applying a single-click to the associate icon via an input device (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.).

As in Claim 25, Megiddo teaches the voice communication includes background music (Col. 7, line 23 et seq.).

As in Claim 26, Megiddo teaches the associate icon is to perform an action upon a happening of an event (Col. 7, lines 55-58).

As in Claim 27, Megiddo teaches the user icon is to perform an action upon a happening of an event (Col. 7, lines 55-58).

As in Claim 28, Megiddo teaches the relative position of each associate icon to the user icon varies automatically based on a perceived change in the corresponding relationship (Col. 7, lines 1-8).

As in Claim 29, Megiddo teaches the perceived change in the relationship is based on a number of communications between the user and the associate associated with the associate icons (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.).

As in Claim 34, Megiddo teaches the associate icon is a digital image of the corresponding associate (Col. 1, lines 41-43 and Col. 15, line 51 et seq.) including

recording of a voice message by the user and transmitting the voice message to the associate (Col. 5, line 40 et seq.)..

As in Claim 35, Megiddo teaches the associate communication section facilitates electronic mail communications between the user and the associate (Figure 2a ref. 114 and corresponding text).

As in Claim 37, Megiddo teaches the associate communication section facilitates the listening of a voice mail communication from the associate (Col. 5, line 40 et seq.).

As in Claim 38, Megiddo teaches the associate communication section facilitates instant messaging communications between the user and the associate (Figure 2a ref. 114 and corresponding text).

As in Claim 40, Megiddo teaches the digital image of the associate is to exhibit a characteristic to visualize a relationship between the user and the associate (See rejection of Claims 2 and 4).

As in Claim 42, Megiddo teaches a magnitude of the repositioning is dependent on a type of relationship between user and associate (Fig. 3 ref. 110, 120, 130 and Col. 7, lines 1 et seq.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 1-8 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Megiddo, US Patent 6559863 and further in view of Shiio et al., hereinafter Shiio, US Patent 5491743.

As in Claim 1, Megiddo teaches a method for visualizing interpersonal relationships comprising displaying a user icon representing a user on a user interface and displaying plurality of associate icons on the user interface, wherein the associate icons represent respective associates, radially about the user icon (Col. 2, lines 14 et seq.), wherein each of the associate icons are positioned on the user interface to illustrate a relationship between the user and the associate (Col. 2, lines 10-14), and a communication tool enabling the user to compose a communication and enabling the user to transmit the communication to an associate wherein the communication tool is to be displayed upon selecting at least one of the corresponding associate icons (Col. 7, line 13 et seq., also window ref. 114 in the figures). While Megiddo teaches a user icon and plurality of associate icons radially positioned around the user that illustrates the relationships between the user and associates along with a communication tool displayed upon selection of an associate icon, they suggest but fail to explicitly state a positioning tool enabling the user to position each associate icon independently within the user interface, as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Shiio teaches a user icon and plurality of associate icons radially positioned around the user that illustrates the relationships between the user and associates along with a communication tool displayed upon selection of an associate icon similar to that of

Megiddo. In addition, Shiio further teaches the positioning tool enabling the user to position each associate icon independently within the user interface (Col. 7, line 10 et seq.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Megiddo and Shiio before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the user icon and plurality of associate icons radially positioned around the user that illustrates the relationships between the user and associates along with a communication tool displayed upon selection of an associate icon taught by Megiddo to include the positioning tool enabling the user to position each associate icon independently within the user interface of Shiio, in order to obtain the ability for a user icon to independently control associate icons in communication interface. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a user controlled conference display interface would have been obtained, as taught by Shiio.

As in Claims 2, Megiddo teaches the distance between the user icon and the each associate icon represents an importance of the each relationship (Col. 2, lines 10-14).

As in Claim 3, Megiddo teaches each associate icon is capable of being repositioned by the user via an input device (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.).

As in Claim 4, Megiddo teaches the associate icon is a digital image of the corresponding associate (Col. 1, lines 41-43 and Col. 15, line 51 et seq.).

As in Claim 5, Megiddo teaches the voice communication tool to transmit a voice communication from the user to at least one of the associates (Col. 5, line 40 et seq.).

As in Claim 6, Megiddo teaches selecting and associate icon includes applying a single-click to the associate icon via an input device (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.).

As in Claim 8, Megiddo teaches the voice communication tool includes a communication section to visualize previous communications between the user and the associate (As in chat rooms and displayed in ref. 114 of the Figures, the past comments are displayed in the line above the most recent comment).

As in Claim 11, Megiddo teaches the user is capable of selectively indicating an availability to communicate with the associate via the user interface (Col. 7, line 9 et seq.).

As in Claim 12, Megiddo teaches the relative position of each associate icon to the user icon varies automatically based on a perceived change in the corresponding relationship (Col. 7, lines 1-8).

As in Claim 13, Megiddo teaches the associate icon is to perform an action upon a happening of an event (Col. 7, lines 55-58).

As in Claim 14, Megiddo teaches the action includes animating the associate icon upon receiving a communication from the associate associated with the associate icon (Col. 7, lines 55-58).

As in Claim 15, Megiddo teaches the user icon is to perform an action upon a happening of an event (Col. 7, lines 55-58).

6. Claim 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Megiddo, US Patent 6559863, and further in view of Singer et al., hereinafter Singer, US Patent 5889843.

Megiddo teaches a method for visualizing interpersonal relationships comprising displaying a user icon representing a user on a user interface and displaying associate icons on the user interface, wherein the associate icons represent respective associates, radially about the user icon (Col. 2, lines 14 et seq.), wherein each of the associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associate (Col. 2, lines 10-14), automatically repositioning one of the associate icons radially relative to the user icon based on extent of contact between the user and the associate (Col. 7, lines 1 et seq.). While Megiddo teaches user and associate icons positioned radially on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associates, they fail to show the extent of contact between the user and associate based on the geographic distance between the user and associate as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Singer teaches a user interface between users and associates such that they can audibly communicate with one another similar to that of Megiddo. In addition, Singer further teaches extent of contact between the user and associate based on the geographic distance between the user and associate (Col. 5, line 66 et seq.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Megiddo and Singer before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the radial positioning of user and associate icons and relative distance between icons symbolizing the relationships taught by

Megiddo to include the teaches extent of contact between the user and associate based on the geographic distance between the user and associate of Singer, in order to obtain placement of associate icons with respect to user icons on the basis of geographic location. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because visualization of users' proximities would have been obtained, as taught by Singer.

7. Claim 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Megiddo, US Patent 6559863, and Shiio et al., hereinafter Shiio, US Patent 5491743 and further in view of Harvey et al., hereinafter Harvey, US Patent 6784901.

Megiddo and Shiio teaches a method for visualizing interpersonal relationships comprising displaying a user icon representing a user on a user interface and displaying associate icons on the user interface, wherein the associate icons represent one or more associates, wherein the associate icons are positioned radially about the user icon (Col. 2, lines 14 et seq.), wherein each of the one or more associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associates (Col. 2, lines 10-14). While Megiddo and Shiio teaches radial position of associate icons about a user icon, wherein each of the associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associates, they fail to show the attaching digital content to a communication upon dropping the digital content onto the associate icon when the communication is initiated within a predetermined amount of time of initiating the transmission of the digital content and transmitting the communication with the attached digital content as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Harvey teaches a virtual conferencing system similar

to that of Megiddo and Shiio. In addition, Harvey further teaches attaching digital content to a communication upon dropping the digital content onto the associate icon when the communication is initiated within a predetermined amount of time of initiating the transmission of the digital content and transmitting the communication with the attached digital content (Col. 12, lines 36 et seq.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Megiddo, Shiio and Harvey before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the radial positioning and relative distance between icons symbolizing the relationships between them taught by Megiddo and Shiio to include the dragging and dropping method of attaching digital content to a communication of Harvey, in order to obtain radial positioning of associate icons about a user icon, wherein each of the associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associates with a drag drop attachment method for attaching digital content to a communication. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a file-sharing transmission system between users would have been obtained, as taught by Harvey.

6. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Megiddo, US Patent 6559863, and further in view of Harvey et al., hereinafter Harvey, US Patent 6784901.

Megiddo teaches a method for visualizing interpersonal relationships comprising displaying a user icon representing a user on a user interface and displaying associate icons on the user interface, wherein the associate icons represent one or more associates, wherein the associate icons are positioned radially about the user icon (Col.

2, lines 14 et seq.), wherein each of the one or more associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associates (Col. 2, lines 10-14). While Megiddo teaches radial position of associate icons about a user icon, wherein each of the associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associates, they fail to show the attaching digital content to a communication upon dropping the digital content onto the associate icon when the communication is initiated within a predetermined amount of time of initiating the transmission of the digital content and transmitting the communication with the attached digital content as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Harvey teaches a virtual conferencing system similar to that of Megiddo. In addition, Harvey further teaches attaching digital content to a communication upon dropping the digital content onto the associate icon when the communication is initiated within a predetermined amount of time of initiating the transmission of the digital content and transmitting the communication with the attached digital content (Col. 12, lines 36 et seq.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Megiddo and Harvey before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the radial positioning and relative distance between icons symbolizing the relationships between them taught by Megiddo to include the dragging and dropping method of attaching digital content to a communication of Harvey, in order to obtain radial positioning of associate icons about a user icon, wherein each of the associate icons are positioned on the user interface to visualize a relationship between the user and the associates with a drag drop attachment method

for attaching digital content to a communication. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a file-sharing transmission system between users would have been obtained, as taught by Harvey.

8. Claims 30-32 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiio et al., hereinafter Shiio, US Patent 5491743, and further in view of Megiddo, US Patent 6559863.

As in Claim 30, Shiio teaches a method of exchanging information comprising displaying a first user interface graphically presenting strength of a relationship between a user and associate based on extent of contact between the user and associate (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.), receiving a signal indicating dropping of the first user icon on the first user interface onto a first associate icon, the first associate icon representing the associate, in response to the signal automatically sending user information associated with the user icon to the associate (Col. 7, lines 10-15 and 23 et seq.), and including a second associate icon to be displayed on a second user interface associated with the associate (all members can see other attendee's icons on their interfaces and can automatically communicate with one another through speech transmission). While Shiio teaches dropping information from a first user icon onto an associate icon to automatically send information between the user and associate, they fail to show the information including profile information as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Megiddo teaches a communication interface similar to that of Shiio. In addition, Megiddo further teaches transmission of profile information between users/associates (Fig. 4b and corresponding text). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Shiio and Megiddo before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the user information transmission of information by dragging and dropping taught by Shiio to include the profile transmission of Megiddo, in order to obtain user-controlled profile transmission between users through the interface drag/drop controls. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a way to identify other users would have been obtained, as taught by Megiddo.

As in Claim 43, Shiio teaches repositioning the associate icon closer to the user icon when the strength of the relationship increases (Col. 8, lines 58 et seq.).

As in Claim 31, Shiio teaches a method of exchanging information comprising displaying a first user interface graphically presenting strength of a relationship between a user and associate based on extent of contact between the user and associate (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.), receiving a signal indicating dropping of the first associate icon on the first user interface onto a second associate icon on the first user interface, the first associate icon representing the first associate, the second associate icon representing the second associate, in response to the signal automatically sending user information associated with the user icon to the second associate (Col. 7, lines 10-15 and 23 et seq.), and including a third associate icon associated with the first associate to be displayed on a second user interface associated with the second associate (all members can see other attendee's icons on their interfaces and can automatically communicate with one another through speech transmission). While Shiio teaches dropping information from a first associate icon onto a second associate

icon to automatically send information between the user and associate, they fail to show the information including profile information as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Megiddo teaches a communication interface similar to that of Shiio. In addition, Megiddo further teaches transmission of profile information between users/associates (Fig. 4b and corresponding text). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Shiio and Megiddo before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the user information transmission of information by dragging and dropping taught by Shiio to include the profile transmission of Megiddo, in order to obtain user-controlled profile transmission between users through the interface drag/drop controls. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a way to identify other users would have been obtained, as taught by Megiddo.

As in Claim 32, Shiio teaches a method of exchanging information comprising displaying a first user interface graphically presenting strength of a relationship between a user and associate based on extent of contact between the user and first and second associates (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.), receiving a first signal indicating dropping of the first associate icon on the first user interface onto an introduction area, the first associate icon representing a first associate, receiving a second signal indicating dropping of the second associate icon onto an introduction area representing a second associate (Col. 7, line 10 et seq.), in response to the second signal, automatically sending the first associate information associated with the second associate and automatically sending a second associate information to associated with

the second associate to the first associate (when new user is added, they receive the icons of the other users), the first associate information including a third associate icon associated with the first associate to be displayed on a second user interface associated with the second associate (when new user is added, they receive the icon of the other users), the second associate information including a fourth associate icon associated with the second associate to be displayed on a third user interface associated with the first associate (all members can see other attendee's icons on their interfaces and can automatically communicate with one another through speech transmission). While Shio teaches dropping information from a first user icon onto an associate icon to automatically send information including associated icons between the user and associate, they fail to show the information including profile information as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Megiddo teaches a communication interface similar to that of Shio. In addition, Megiddo further teaches transmission of profile information between users/associates (Fig. 4b and corresponding text). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Shio and Megiddo before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the user information transmission of information by dragging and dropping taught by Shio to include the profile transmission of Megiddo, in order to obtain user-controlled profile transmission between users through the interface drag/drop controls. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a way to identify other users would have been obtained, as taught by Megiddo.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/22/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the arguments that Megiddo fails to disclose or suggest that a user can move to an icon representing another participant independently within a user interface, the examiner notes that when the user decides to increase or decrease the extent of contact between themselves and an associate by designating the associate or another associate respectively within the window, the user stays still while the associate icon is brought closer or pushed further from the user. Also, while Megiddo teaches a user icon and plurality of associate icons radially positioned around the user that illustrates the relationships between the user and associates along with a communication tool displayed upon selection of an associate icon, they suggest but fail to explicitly state a positioning tool enabling the user to position each associate icon independently within the user interface. However, the examiner notes that Shiio teaches this limitation as cited *supra*.

In response to the arguments that Megiddo fails to disclose or suggest automatically repositioning an associate icon radially relative to the user icon based on extent of contact between the user and associate the examiner disagrees. Megiddo teaches that when the user wishes to communicate more directly with an associate, the icons are repositioned more closely to one another as in rejection *supra*.

In response to the arguments that Megiddo fails to disclose or suggest recording of a voice message by a user and transmitting of the voice message to an associate. For audio to be transmitted from one station to another it is recorded by the first system. Recording is simply the process of taking in audio and is inherent in the teachings of Megiddo.

In response to the arguments that Shiiro fails to disclose or suggest graphically presenting strength of a relationship between a user and associate based on extent of contact between user and associate, the examiner disagrees. Shiiro shows that when two users are engaged in a strong private relationship, they are displayed close together with their mouths moving, but other users that do not share in such a relationship are displayed further and cannot listen to the conversation. See rejections *supra*.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar virtual conferencing methods and interfaces.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara M. Hanne whose telephone number is (571) 272-4135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am-4:00pm, off on alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WEILUN LO can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2179

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smh

BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER